

# OFFICE OF EMS/TRAUMA NEWS

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## Special points of interest:

- 30 years of service to Georgia
- EMS-C Funding
- TBI Program Funding
- Injury Prevention Programs
- April Trivia Question and Prize Announcement

## EMS WORKFORCE SURVEY

### Is there an EMS labor shortage in Georgia?

Starting April 26, 2005, for three to four weeks, EMS Service Directors and Deputy Directors will have an opportunity to provide their opinion to this important question. The Georgia EMS Advisory Council and the State Office of EMS/Trauma will be conducting a telephone survey of all Georgia EMS service directors. The Board of Directors of the Georgia Association of EMS, Inc. (GAEMS) has gone on record as supporting this effort.



Courtney Terwillier  
President, GAEMS  
Chairperson, GAEMSAC

The purpose of the survey is to collect data on the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) workforce in Georgia. Participating in this survey will enable EMS advisory groups, including the GAEMS, and the State Office of EMS/Trauma to have a better understanding of Georgia's EMS workforce. The telephone

survey will be conducted by a professional survey company. Participation in the survey is voluntary. The survey is completely confidential. The survey will last approximately ten minutes. Neither you nor your organization will be identified in any way in the data compiled or published survey results. The more organizations that participate, the more accurate the results of the survey will be. Thank you in advance for your participation and dedicated service.

## CHANGES 2005

The Georgia Association of EMS (GAEMS) sponsored the CHANGES conference in Augusta, Georgia on March 29-31, 2005. Day one consisted of three presentations including an up close look at the front lines of trauma care in Iraq, followed by 20 break out sessions for physicians, nurses, prehospital professionals, leadership/management, and public health professionals. Day two included seven additional presentations on subjects ranging from patient care to the Graniteville, S.C. Chlorine Spill.

Make plans now to attend the 2006 CHANGES conference. Look for details in the October 2005 OEMS/T newsletter. Don't miss the opportunity to win one (1) free registration to the conference.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Welcome

The Region III EMS Office is pleased to introduce two new staff members. **Bobbi Gulley** is now our EMS Training Specialist for the Region. Bobbi has a great deal of experience in EMS as well as EMS Education. We are confident she will be an asset to the Region and the Office of

Emergency Medical Services. She can be contacted at [bhgulley@gdph.state.ga.us](mailto:bhgulley@gdph.state.ga.us).

&

**Christine Ellington** joined the Region 3 EMS office in March. Christine is now our Administrative Assistant. She can be contacted at [chellington@gdph.state.ga.us](mailto:chellington@gdph.state.ga.us).

### Job Openings

**Central Georgia Region V,** EMS Training Specialist position is available. Contact Chris Threlkeld at 706-484-2991 for information or to apply online visit: [www.thejobsite.org](http://www.thejobsite.org). Application deadline is May 6, 2005.



## FROM THE OEMS DIRECTORS' CHAIR

BY DAVID BEAN AND EJ DAILEY

### Announcing

New Georgia  
EMS Rules and  
Regulations  
became  
effective  
March 17, 2005.

**Question:** When do the new Rules and Regulations go into effect?

#### Answer:

The new EMS Rules and Regulations went into effect on March 17, 2005. The DHR board voted to pass the proposed EMS rules and Regulations as were posted during the last comment period. The document has not been published by the Secretary of State's Office yet. The printed versions will be mailed to EMS Service Directors when made available.

**Question:** How do the changes effect me?

#### Answer:

The revised EMS Rules contain:

- Changes to the ALS definition and scope of practice for EMT—I and EMT—B (note: scope of practice is under review)
- Distinguishable license levels between EMT—I and EMT—B
- 40 CEU hours will be required for both EMT—I and EMT—B
- CPR is required in addition to the revised number of CEU's for both EMT—I and EMT—B
- Penalty period for EMT—I and EMT—B is \$100.00
- EMT—I specific changes include in addition to the above mentioned changes:

1. Fee for new EMT—I license and biennial renewal is \$50.00

- EMT—B specific changes include in addition to the above mentioned changes:

1. Fee for new EMT—B license and biennial renewal is \$25.00
2. EMT—Bs renew license on GA schedule

- Paramedics and Cardiac Technicians specific changes include:

1. 40 CEU hours, plus CPR and ACLS
2. B.O.M.E. rule 360-11 does not apply; now regulated under DHR 290-5-230 along with EMT—I and EMT—B
3. Fee for new license and biennial renewal \$75.00
4. Penalty fee \$150.00

**Question:** Where can I get a copy?

#### Answer:

<http://health.state.ga.us/programs/ems/index.asp>

**Question:** Who do I call for answers to my questions?

#### Answer:

Regional EMS Offices statewide and The Office of EMS/Trauma

**Question:** What is the status of air-ambulance rules and regulations?

#### Answer:

- The next step in the process is to develop the Rules and Regulations for air ambulance provider.
- In 2003, the OEMS/T obtained the authority to license air-ambulance services.
- The rules will only apply to rotor-wing and will fit with current rule.
- A committee is being formed to develop a draft rules and regulations.
- The new rules and regulations will go through the same public process as any other rule.

**Question:** What is new correct terminology for the recertification process?

- A. Re-licensing
- B. Re-certification
- C. Licensing Renewal

#### Answer:

- C. Licensing Renewal

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Send your questions for the Directors' Chair to [mprobst@gdph.state.ga.us](mailto:mprobst@gdph.state.ga.us)

FROM THE DESK OF  
**PAT O'NEAL, MD**  
OEMS/T MEDICAL DIRECTOR

We learned at the Las Vegas Trauma Conference March 21-23 that the long-awaited new version of "RESOURCES FOR OPTIMAL CARE OF THE INJURED PATIENT" has been completed and will soon be available for distribution. The most impressive change in this document will be a stronger emphasis on injury prevention activities. We understand that Level 1 and Level 2 trauma centers will probably be required to allocate 0.5 FTE (full-time equivalent) for an injury prevention coordinator. While recognizing the undeniable value of injury prevention activities to a trauma system, I do have concerns about the cost implications that this will have for trauma centers that are already financially stressed. We at the State Office of EMS/Trauma will be seeking input from the Trauma System Development Committee and the Trauma Medical Review Committee on applicability to Georgia of any changes in trauma center requirements.

Pat O'Neal

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
MEDICAL DIRECTORS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL (EMSMDAC)**  
BY JILL MABLEY, MD

**Meeting Schedule 2005**

All EMSMDAC meeting are open to any interested persons. Future scheduled meetings: July 14, Atlanta Crowne Plaza at 10:00am.

November 10, Cordele. The committee especially welcomes attendance by any and all local EMS medical directors. Suggestions for agenda items should be sent to: Jill Mabley ([jmabley@cherokeega.com](mailto:jmabley@cherokeega.com)).

**Peer Review Immunity for EMS**

It is known that many states do not have peer review immunity for EMS. A query has been submitted to the DHR Office of Legal Services. A response is likely after the Legislative Session. It is probable that immunity exists for hospital-based services at this time.

**Polyheme Trial**

Field use should begin by April 18, 2005.

**Albuterol Study**

Dr. Ossman briefly discussed the albuterol study, indicating that training has been initiated, but no results are available to report yet. The study will be rolled out to the entire crew in the fall.

**Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Update:**

Dr. Calita Richards from the OEMS was a guest at the March EMSMDAC meeting. She provided the council with a brief update on the CDC's SNS Program, the ChemPack Program, the Cities Readiness Initiative (focuses on 21 cities across the nation), and the Mark I Plus Kits local caches. In the future, the HRSA grant will include funding for antibiotics (three days) for the staff (and their families) of the hospitals across the state as well as the hospital-based first responders associated with those facilities.

**Preventive Health Block Grant**

The President's budget does not include funding for the

Preventive Health Block Grant (PHBG) which funds Georgia's regional EMS system. Public Health will begin discussions with state budget personnel to migrate away from dependency on the PHBG.

**Communications Committee**

Dr. Michael Hagues, Chair is in the process of compiling a list of all the local EMS medical directors in Georgia including their email addresses. While the list-serv is an effective means of communication, it needs to be revised with current email addresses.

**SOEMS Newsletter**

This quarterly newsletter will be distributed to all local EMS medical directors. The plan is to report on the EMSMDAC meetings, as well as post items and topics of interest to local EMS directors. Upcoming topics include liability issues and CQI. Anyone who has interest in writing short (or long) articles or helping with creation of the e-mail list, Please contact Jill Mabley ([jmabley@cherokeega.com](mailto:jmabley@cherokeega.com)) or Marie Probst ([mprobst@gdph.state.ga.us](mailto:mprobst@gdph.state.ga.us))



Pat O'Neal, MD



Jill Mabley, MD,  
Chairperson of EMSMDAC

To contribute to the OEMS/Trauma newsletter, please contact Marie Probst at [mprobst@gdph.state.ga.us](mailto:mprobst@gdph.state.ga.us) or (404) 679-0524.



Alex Isakov, MD

### National Public Health Week April 4-10, 2005

American Public Health Association  
800 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC  
20001-3710  
visit: [www.apha.org](http://www.apha.org)  
Materials available

## EMS Education Curricula Committee

Dr. Alex Isakov recently completed an important appointment as the Chairman of the EMS Education Curricula Committee. He and the committee members were charged to craft recommendations to the Office of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma (OEMS/T) regarding the approval of EMT-B and EMT-I curriculum changes as proposed by the Department of Technical and Adult Education (DTAE).

The committee discussed the issues involving the current and proposed curriculums. More specifically, the number of modules, quarters and contact hours being considered for revisions. The revisions will be improvements to the programs being offered and will make prehospital medicine non-competitive with other programs (LPN, PA).

The results of the committee's vote are non-binding recommendations to the OEMS/T which has the responsibility to approve or disapprove the proposals. This is a complex area to which additional work is required by the committee. Furthermore, an EMS Education Advisory Committee will be developed separately from the EMS Education Curricula Committee.

## NATIONAL EMS NEWS

**National Blast Injury Awareness Conference**, May 9-10, 2005, Alexandria, Va. Contact [hrchampion@aol.com](mailto:hrchampion@aol.com) for information.

**Injury and Violence in America: Meeting Challenges, Sharing Solutions**, May 9-11, 2005, Denver, Colo. Information is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/2005conference>.

### FEMA Announces New NRP Online Training

On Jan. 6, 2005, FEMA announced the release of the new course that introduces emergency management practitioners to the National Response Plan, including the concept of operations upon which the plan is built. The course, IS-800 – The National Response Plan, an Introduction – is available at

<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is800.asp>

<<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is800.asp>>. It is designed for DHS and other federal department/agency staff responsible for implementing the NRP, as well as state, local and private sector emergency management professionals.

**28th Annual Conference of the National Rural Health Association**, May 19-21, 2005, New Orleans, La. Information is available at <http://www.NRHA rural.org/conf>.

**EMS Expo and NAEMT Annual Meeting**, August 23-27, 2005, New Orleans, La. For information visit [www.emsmagazine.com](http://www.emsmagazine.com).

**Analyzing and Presenting EMS Data Workshop**, January 18-20, 2006, Anaheim, CA. For information, visit: [www.nedarc.org/workshps/2005/excel.htm](http://www.nedarc.org/workshps/2005/excel.htm).

<http://WISER.nlm.nih.gov>. A desktop version is scheduled to be available later this spring and a web-based version is being developed. WISER is being incorporated into training curricula, such as FEMA's Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program.

**EMS Scope of Practice Model** The second draft of the EMS Scope of Practice Model is now posted at [www.emsscopeofpractice.org](http://www.emsscopeofpractice.org). Please read it and make comments as appropriate directly to NASEMSD, as covered in the draft.

### Hand Held Information System Available for Emergency Responders

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) has announced the release of a PDA software tool designed to help first responders when they arrive at a hazardous material incident. WISER (Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders) provides the emergency responder with critical information on hazardous substances, including physical characteristics, human health data and containment and suppression information. Operational versions for Palm OS and Pocket PC are available without charge for downloading to the users' PDA's at <http://WISER.nlm.nih.gov>. A desktop version is scheduled to be available later this spring. A web-based version is being developed.

### Online Paramedic to RN Bridge Program at ERTSS

The Emergency Response Training & Support Services is offering a bridge program from Paramedic, LPN, RT to RN. Information sessions will be held on May 10, 11, 12 with classes beginning in June. Visit [www.ertss.com](http://www.ertss.com) or [www.GAEMS.net](http://www.GAEMS.net) for details.



## REGIONAL EMS NEWS

### Region 1

The Northwest Georgia Region 1 EMS Council held its annual EMS Awards and Appreciation Banquet on March 17th. Eight awards were presented:

EMS Service of the Year—  
Whitfield County EMS

EMT of the Year—  
Mr. George Oxenreider

Medic of the Year—  
Mr. Rick Cobb

EMS Director of the Year—  
Mr. Bud Owens

EMS Educator of the Year—  
Mr. David Newton

EMS Pioneer Award—  
Mr. Larry Vanegriff

Special Achievement Award  
— Ms. Marie Miller

Excellence in Trauma Award  
— Gilmer County EMS

Stanley Payne and Frank Tidwell were remembered and their families honored.

### Region IV

The Office of EMS, in conjunction with the EMS Education Committee appointed by the West Georgia EMS Council has been very busy in recent months planning training opportunities for all their EMS and First Responder Services. According to Billy Watson, Program Director and Russ McGee, Training Specialist several exciting events designed to increase the level of care by the medics in the Region have been planned and some already instituted. Under the direction of the Regional EMS Office and Captain Steve Folden of Fayette County Fire & EMS, the Committee which consists of Training officers of the various ambulance and helicopter crews have set out on a course to bring about many opportunities to better educate all their EMS personnel. The Mark I Train-the-Trainer Class was recently held at the

Region Office taught by Capt. Folden and Kris Cagle, Paramedic Instructor. There were over 35 Instructors in this course certified to deliver the material to the employees in their services.

There are plans in the works for two PHTLS courses, as are a MEND (Stroke Assessment) Train-the-Trainer Course, Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS), 12 Lead EKG, Geriatric Emergency Medical Service (GEMS), NHTSA Car Seat Safety, Airbag/Extrication Hazards, HazMat Awareness & Ops, and Emergency Neonatal Prehospital Care (ENPC).

The helicopter services in Region IV, EmoryFlight and Rescue Air1 have provided several educational "Night Out" programs with Physicians and Nurses from the Trauma Centers lecturing on various topics ranging from Neurological Trauma to Orthopedics. Several more of these programs are planned over the next several months.

Our philosophy is that Education is the key to good patient outcomes and this often requires the desire on the part of every medic to improve their knowledge and skills in the pre-hospital setting. Excellent opportunities exist to those willing to make the commitment and put forth the effort to increase their level of care. After all, we never know what that next call may entail. Chances are, it may be "the worst day of a stranger's life" and we must be ready.

### Region VII

The West Central Georgia Region 7 EMS Council I hosted its annual EMS Awards and Appreciation Banquet on March 22 at the

Conference Center at Columbus Regional Medical Center. The keynote speaker for the Banquet was former West Central Health District Program Manager Dee Cantrell. The awards were presented by the Awards Committee Chair, Chief David McCall. Awards were presented to 18 individuals in three categories:

The **Cardiac Save Award** was presented to Chris Crum, Shawn Sheely, Judson Montgomery, Lou McElroy, and Gary Lowe.

The **Trauma Save Award** was presented to Chris Price, Danny Irions, Chad Jones, Bobbie Jones, William Ervin, William Washington, Elisa Hunter, Jon Bass, and Garrett Gordy.

The **Medical Save Award** was presented to Vance Streeter, Shirley Kisor, and Amanda Blankenship.

### Region IX

Jim Turner with Liberty Regional EMS was contracted by IEM, Inc. (Innovative Emergency Management) to serve as the Lead Emergency Management Consultant in Turkey during March 2005. Recent geological studies predict that the City of Istanbul will suffer a catastrophic earthquake within the next 10 years. IEM is under contract with the Prime Ministers office for the Republic of Turkey to conduct a survey of their emergency response agencies. These agencies include Istanbul's Fire Department, Civil Defense, Search and Rescue, and EMS systems. Based on the survey results, the World Bank will spend \$15 million dollars in the recommended areas. Mr. Turner assisted in the interview process and develop recommendations on how to improve the overall response system.



**Jim Turner from  
Region IX Goes to  
Turkey**

## NOTE WORTHY CONTRIBUTIONS

### Syndromic Surveillance in Georgia

**Susan T. Cookson, MD, MPH** with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) chairs the Syndromic Surveillance Subcommittee of the Metro Atlanta Surveillance Task Force (MASTF). Members of this committee are from the CDC, PH, various EMS services, and OEMS. The primary objective of the subcommittee is to monitor and protect the health of communities.

**Rochella Mood**, Trauma Coordinator for Atlanta Medical Center and GCTE Public Relations Subcommittee Chairperson, sent out a "Call for Abstracts". The abstracts will be included in the second annual publication of trauma registry data titled, [A Call To Action, 2004 Analysis of Georgia Trauma Registry Data](#). The sub-topics for the document will include: Urgency, Prevention, Medical Focus, Regulation, and Research.

Ms. Mood has received abstracts from four Georgia Trauma Centers on varying subjects pertaining to Trauma in Georgia.

Thank you to Ms. Mood and the trauma centers for their continued support and dedication to trauma system development in Georgia.

## April 2005 Trivia Question

**Who wrote "The EMT Oath", known worldwide?**

The first person to answer the April trivia question will win one (1) free registration to the 2005 GA EMS Conference, sponsored by The

GA EMS Association. The event will be held on St. Simons Island, August 2, 3, 4, & 5, 2005. The winner is responsible for all other expenses. Respond to Marie Probst at (404) 679-0547 or [mprobst@gdph.state.ga.us](mailto:mprobst@gdph.state.ga.us)

**Answer to the January 2005 Trivia Question:**

Under which Governor did the efforts begin to organize an EMS system in Georgia?  
**Jimmy Carter with the EMS Act of 1973**

### National EMS Week,

May 15-21, 2005  
For materials visit:  
[www.acep.org/](http://www.acep.org/)

## EMS EVENTS CALENDAR

### Regional EMS Council Meetings and Contacts:

- 1- 4/28, 7/21, 10/20, David Loftin
- 2 - 6/16, 9/15, 12/15, Earl McGrotha
- 3- 5/26, 8/18, 11/17, Marty Billings
- 4- 4/19, 7/19, 10/18, Billy Watson
- 5- 6/16, 9/15, 12/15, Chris Threlkeld
- 6- 5/11, 8/10, 11/9, Lawanna Mercer-Cobb
- 7- TBA, Sam Cunningham
- 8- 4/11, 7/11, 10/TBA, Robert Vick
- 9- 4/21, 7/21, 10/20, Shirley Starling
- 10- TBA, Earl McGrotha

### EMS Management Conference

April 20-22, 2005, Unicoi State Park.

### Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS)

May 3, 2005, 0730—1700 at the Mountain Creek Inn Conference Center in Pine Mountain, Ga. Contact Tamber Fuller at [tdfuller@gdph.state.ga.us](mailto:tdfuller@gdph.state.ga.us).

**GEMSIS meeting** May 5, 2005, Holiday Inn, Forsyth, Ga. There will be a Learning from Leaders session in the morning and the afternoon session will be dedicated to committee work. Online education will be one of the many topics.

**EMS Award Banquet**, May 12, 2005, Macon.

**National EMS Week**, May 15-21, 2005

Visit: [www.acep.org/emsweek](http://www.acep.org/emsweek) for materials.

**The Stars of Life Banquet** will be held in May 2005. Contact Marty Billings for more information at 404-248-8995 or to be a sponsor this year.

**Georgia EMS Conference**, August 2-5, 2005 St. Simons Island, Ga.

**T.I.M.E. Conference**, November 9-10, 2005, Hilton Hotel located on the Riverfront in Albany, Ga.

## SOEMS/TRAUMA UPDATE



### Ms. Rachel Murray

On Wednesday, April 13, 2005, Ms. Rachel Murray was honored for **30 years** of



Ms. Rachel Murray and  
David Bean, EMS Director

service to the State of Georgia. Ms. Murray has worked for the Office of Emergency Medical Services since 1974. At a luncheon in her honor, Mr. David Bean, EMS Director, and Ms. Ej Dailey, Deputy Director presented Ms. Murray with a 30 years of service pin, a State of Georgia Faithful Service Award from Governor Sonny Purdue, Commissioner BJ Walker and Peggy Rosser, Commissioner of Personnel Administration. She also was presented with a plaque from the OEMS./T

Ms. Murray has worn many hats during her years of service. She is currently in the Licensing Section of the OEMS/T.

### Ms. Murray,

**Thank you for your dedication to public service and to the Office of Emergency Medical Services/Trauma.**

The OEMS/T Staff

### OARS:

The Georgia EMS Advisory Council and the Georgia State Office of EMS/Trauma have developed a survey to collect data pertaining to Georgia's EMS workforce. The participation of EMS Service Directors or Deputy Directors will enable EMS advisory groups and the State Office of EMS/Trauma to have objective information regarding Georgia's EMS workforce. Telephone surveys are scheduled to begin April 26, 2005.

The GEMSIS publication is available. Send copy requests to [mprobst@gdph.state.ga.us](mailto:mprobst@gdph.state.ga.us) with the quantity and a complete shipping address.

**DHR approves GEMSIS system:** The Department of Human Resources has approved the procurement of the new GEMSIS system.

### CHANGES 2005 conference:

Fred Grant spoke at the Changes conference regarding Georgia's evolving system of processing EMS data.

### Licensing Renewal:

See the "From the Directors' Chair" section on page 2 for details. As of March 17, 2005 new Rules and Regulations for Ambulance Services were adopted by the Department of Human Resources Board. An Online Licensing Renewal application will soon be available on the web.

### 2004 PCR data:

Processing of the 2004 PCR data has begun.

### Instructor Recertification:

Reminder ... Paramedic, EMT and First Responder Instructor recertification deadline is December 31, 2005. Renewal Packets have been mailed to active instructors.

### Trauma Registry:

The OEMS/T performed the 2nd Annual download of Georgia Trauma Registry Data to the American College of Surgeons' National Trauma Data Bank (NTDB). The annual download consisted of 2003 and 2004 trauma registry data from the fifteen designated trauma centers. NTDB provides national benchmark data back to the individual designated trauma centers.

### Licensing Section:

The licensing section licensed 5 new Ambulance Services in the first quarter of 2005. There were also 34 services with Anniversaries and 42 Renewals.

All **licensing invoices** for May and June 2005 have been mailed out.

### Rural Health Grant (RHG):

We are nearing the end of the annual cycle. The next meeting is scheduled for June 15th. One training class for EMS providers remains. Region 7 PCR data analysis has begun. Preliminary analysis indicates that most services are doing a good job in collecting data; however, the EMSVID is not being collected. All RHG activities will conclude in August 2005.

The OEMS/T  
Celebrates  
30 Years  
of Service with  
Ms. Rachel Murray

## CRASH ANALYSIS, STATISTICS & INFORMATION

### GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY

#### DECEMBER 2004

Ms. Angie Rios, who serves as a consultant to the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), developed and produced the first highway safety fact book in Georgia for the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety. Over the years, her fact books have become a major source of information for numerous state agencies and nonprofit groups in Georgia. While working with the Georgia Department of Motor Vehicle Safety she participated in their quality control process to ensure the highway safety data was as reliable as possible and useable for safety analysis and she officially approved each annual database. She believes firmly that the data users should not

only have access to the data but also contribute to the quality control process and data management standards. Her current project is the annual Crash Analysis, Statistics & Information Notebook for the Department of Motor Vehicle Safety. The web based Crash Analysis, Statistics & Information reports include analysis of Georgia crash, injury, and fatality data from 1996 to 2003 and county level crash data tables. The link to view the CASI notebook is [www.dmv.ga.gov](http://www.dmv.ga.gov).

### Motor Vehicle Occupants and Seat Belt Use\*

#### Number and Percent Belted

Injury	1996	1997	1998	1999**	2000	2001	2002	2003
All Occupants	714,585	722,851	732,568	718,318	735,731	757,541	776,816	778,630
Percent Belted	69.1	74.5	77.9	77.7	78.3	79.1	79.7	79.2
Minor Injury	93,063	91,790	89,399	82,641	87,175	88,536	89,068	89,001
Percent Belted	70.2	75.6	79.9	80.0	80.5	80.7	81.6	81.7
Moderate Injury	31,633	30,435	28,835	25,688	27,799	27,641	27,636	27,494
Percent Belted	54.1	60.5	67.2	67.8	68.4	69.7	71.8	71.7
Serious Injury	5,320	4,914	4,864	4,436	4,712	4,842	4,589	4,682
Percent Belted	40.2	46.7	51.4	53.0	51.8	52.8	56.1	56.2
Fatalities	1,295	1,260	1,249	1,199	1,266	1,328	1,206	1,247
Percent Belted	25.9	26.9	37.2	34.4	35.0	37.2	37.9	39.6

\* Seat belt use as noted by the law enforcement officer on the crash report for occupants over age 5. Persons on motorcycles, mopeds, bicycles, farm and construction equipment, or all terrain vehicles are excluded.

\*\*Not all paper crash report documents could be recovered for 1999 so these figures are assumed to be lower than the actual count.

*Data Sources: Georgia Department of Motor Vehicle Safety, data revised and released as of September 2004*



## ATV STUDY PRESENTED AT CHANGES

Kelli Vaughn, RN, CEN, the Trauma Coordinator for Archbold Memorial Hospital, co-presented the Ride Safe—Ride Smart, Raising Community Awareness in All terrain Vehicle (ATV) Safety at the 2005 Changes conference in Augusta, GA. In keeping with the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMS-C) mission statement, the ATV injury prevention effort was developed "to prevent illness and injury and improve emergency care for children and their families". The ATV safety awareness project was made possible by a grant provided by the EMS-C program.

Upon the completion of the study in 2004, Ms. Vaughn identified the need for an ATV safety program using data from local EMS, the Georgia State Patrol, the State Trauma Registry, Coroner reports, and the newspaper. The data showed a rise in ATV injuries and mortalities in EMS Region 8 in 2003-2004.

Ms. Vaughn works with the Region 8 EMS Office and Georgia State Patrol to raise an awareness of ATV safety and the history and present status of ATV regulations. The group has been successful by using public service announcements, provid-

ing information at community events, large educational events/fun days and at the Sunbelt Ag Expo. The education team uses an information board, raffles for safety equipment, candy, and an educational CD-Rom. The most popular technique used was a photo opportunity for the kids sitting on an ATV wearing the proper safety equipment. The time spent outfitting the children with the equipment before the picture was taken gave the educators the chance to educate the child and parents about ATV safety.

What is next on the injury prevention team's schedule? Fall Fun day, and local EMS days.



Kelli Vaughn, RN, CEN

## RESCUE AIR 1 NIGHT OUT



The LaGrange Chamber of Commerce was the place to be on January 20, 2005. Rescue Air 1 hosted an educational opportunity in Region 4. The event was a huge success with the flight crews, medics from around the region and surrounding regions. The Neurosurgeon and Trauma Nurse Coordinator (Rochella Mood, RN) from Atlanta Medical Center along with the administration from Rescue Air 1 and Meriwhether EMS made it all possible. The

lectures on Trauma Care, Trauma Centers and the Care of the Stroke Patient were superb. CEU's were given to all certified medics and certificates were issued at the close of the evening. Look for similar educational opportunities in the future in Region 4.

## EMS-C GRANT MEETING REPORT

Jane Garbish, Georgia EMSC Family Health Representative, and Fred Grant, OEMS/T, attended the EMSC Grantee Conference in Bethesda, MD, April 10-13. The conference was unique this year featuring combined sessions with the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). The conference celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Federal Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program. Over the past 20 years, the EMSC program has helped

lead the way toward systematic improvements in the delivery of emergency care to children in every state in the United States. Contributions by the EMSC program have resulted in significant advances in pediatric emergency care and substantial improvements in the quality of life of injured children. A review of the EMSC program's accomplishments over these past 2 decades creates a great sense of satisfaction and pride within our profes-

sion. Jane and Fred are pictured receiving an EMSC bear from the American Samoa Islands. Maine was this year's recipient of Georgia's EMSC Bear. OEMS/T Deputy Director Ej Dailey is Georgia's principle contact for EMSC information. She remains heavily involved in leading statewide EMSC efforts. Ej indicated that the ability to collect and provide meaningful EMSC data is a new and significant focus area to secure grant funding.



Jane Garbish and Fred Grant with the American Samoa (Matai) EMS-C Bear

## KIDS CORNER

### NASEMSD Signs Letter Urging Restoration of EMS - C Funds

Several organizations, including the NASEMSD, sent a letter to the House and Senate Labor -HHS Appropriations Subcommittees urging the restoration of the EMS-C program's \$20 million budget in FY2006. The letter was organized by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

### National Child Abuse Prevention Month April 1-30, 2005, visit:

<http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/topics/prevention/index.cfm> for materials.

### National SAFE KIDS Week

April 30—May 7, 2005

Visit: [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org) for information.

### The Injury Prevention Programs 32-Hour Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technician Certification Course

April 7,8,11,12

May 9,10,16,17

September 8,9,12,13

October 6,7,10,11

Visit the National Safekids website to register.

### A Practical Approach to Asthma Management, A 4 hour CME Breakfast Symposium on two Saturdays in May.

May 7, 2005, Athens, Ga

May 14, 2005, Columbus, Ga  
Registration deadlines apply,  
Visit: [www.breathgeorgia.org](http://www.breathgeorgia.org)  
or call 404-885-9789 to register today.

CHOA—Egleston Campus  
2005 Trauma Lecture Schedule  
(q 3rd Friday 0730am in B52)

Date	Lecture	Contact Info
May 20	Vascular Injury	Ross_milner@emoryhealthcare.org
June 17	CT of the Cervical Spine in Pediatric Trauma	Robert.Lorenzo@choa.org
July 15	New resident orientation	
August 19	Head Injury	Timothy_Mapstone@emory.org
Sept 16	Transfusing the Trauma patient	Josephson, Cassandra MD (hospital e-mail)
Oct 21	History and Future for Trauma System Development in GA.	jponeal@gdph.state.ga.us
Nov 18	Genito-Urinary Trauma	
Dec 16	TBA	

### 16-Hour Special Needs Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Training

June 2,3

November 3,4

Course open to currently certified CPS technicians only.



### Car Seat Check Events

Held at 1655 Tullie Circle

By appointment

April 12, May 17

September 13, & October 11

Call Vandie at 404-785-6169 to register.

### CDC Announces Youth Violence Prevention Funding

The CDC has announced the availability of Fiscal Year 2005 funds for a cooperative agreement to build capacity within U.S. cities to collaborate, plan, and implement youth violence prevention principles, practices, and concepts. The application deadline is May 2, 2005. For more information, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/od/pgo/funding/05042.htm>



The 2005  
Georgia EMS-C Bear

## TRAUMA NEWS AND EVENTS

### What is GCTE?

The Trauma Coordinators and Trauma Registrars from the designated Georgia trauma centers, along with the Office of EMS & Trauma are members of the Georgia Committee for Trauma Excellence (GCTE). The committee includes the following subcommittees: Legislative, Education, Public Relations, Performance Improvement and Registry & Data.

A few of the committee's 2004-2005 accomplishments are as follows:

1. Attendance at "EMS Day at the Capitol" to educate legislators on the need for an inclusive, statewide trauma system
2. Continued representation and participation on various local, regional, and state committees involved with trauma care
3. Implementation of the Advanced Trauma Course for Nurses (ATCN)—to be held in conjunction with specific ATLS courses
4. Coordination of the Society of Trauma Nurses' 2005 Georgia Trauma Outcomes and Performance Improvement Course (TOPIC)
5. Development of a "trauma system" video to be utilized at community education forums
6. Development of a process to begin identifying, trending, analyzing and comparing specific trauma data points at both a system and individual facility level
7. Development of a TRACS data repository to enhance communication of registry related issues to all committee members

For information or to join the committee, please contact Deb Battle, GCTE Chairperson at [dbattle@ghs.net](mailto:dbattle@ghs.net), or your nearest trauma center's Trauma Coordinator.

### NASEMSD Signs Letter Regarding HRSA Trauma-EMS System Program

The NASEMSD and the Coalition for American Trauma Care (CATC) sent a letter expressing opposition to the Appropriations Subcommittees' elimination of HRSA's Trauma-EMS System Program. The proposed programs to be eliminated include the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), EMS-C, and the Preventive Health/Health Services Block Grant (PHHS).

### Georgia Committee for Trauma Excellence (GCTE)

2005 meeting schedule and locations:

5/25/05, Atlanta 7/27/05, TBA

9/28/05, Macon

11/16/05, TBA

Time: 10am-3pm

Contact: Renee Morgan at [rwmorgan@gdph.state.ga.us](mailto:rwmorgan@gdph.state.ga.us) for information regarding the State Trauma System or Deb Battle at [dbattle@ghsnet.org](mailto:dbattle@ghsnet.org) regarding GCTE.

**Trauma Lecture Series** at The Medical Center in Columbus, Ga are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the Conference Center at The Medical Center in Columbus 12:30pm – 1:30pm. Lunch is provided. The lectures feature speakers with extensive experience in their field of practice who present trauma specific topics that the local audience has requested. Come and listen to earn your 1.2 CEU's. For more information, please contact Cathy

Maxwell at [cathy.maxwell@crhs.net](mailto:cathy.maxwell@crhs.net).

**Trauma Lecture Series** at DeKalb Medical Center are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in DMC Theater from 8am to 9am. There is no charge or registration, breakfast is served to early birds and CEU/CME/prehospital credit is given. The lectures are open to anyone interested in trauma. For more information, please contact Kelly Nadeau at [knadeau@dkmc.org](mailto:knadeau@dkmc.org).

### Georgia Trauma Video Update

The OEMS/T and the Public Relations Subcommittee representing the GCTE are working together with the Georgia Technology Authority (GTA) to develop a trauma video for Georgia. The purpose of the video is to raise the public's awareness of the importance of trauma centers in our state and the critical life saving impact trauma centers can make on the lives of Georgia's citizens. The interview stage of the project has begun. The completion date for the video is June 30, 2005.

**National Donate Life Month**, April 1-30, visit: [www.organdonor.gov/donate-life.htm](http://www.organdonor.gov/donate-life.htm) for materials.

### National American Occupational Safety and Health Week

May 1-7, 2005, Visit:

[www.asse.org/naosh05](http://www.asse.org/naosh05) for materials.

GCTE Mission and Purpose:  
To Promote Excellent  
Trauma Care in Georgia

## Coming Soon!

### 3rd Annual Day of Trauma Conference

May 18, 2005

Presented by the  
Columbus Regional  
Community  
Trauma Program

Contact:  
Cathy Maxwell at  
[cathy.maxwell@crhs.net](mailto:cathy.maxwell@crhs.net)  
for more details.



## 2005 TRAUMA EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

DATE	COURSE	LOCATION	CONTACT	PHONE OR EMAIL
4/16-17	ATCN (w/ATLS)	Medical Center of Central Georgia	Debra Kitchens	478-633-1584
4/28	TOPIC Course	Macon—TBA	Renee Morgan	rwmorgan@gdph.state.ga.us
6/27-28	TNCC	DeKalb Medical Center	Roz Jackson	404-501-1178
7/11-12	TNCC	Gwinnett Medical Center	Deb Battle	678-442-3742
9/19-20	TNCC	DeKalb Medical Center	Roz Jackson	404-501-1178
10/3-4	TNCC	Gwinnett Medical Center	Deb Battle	678-442-3742
10/5-6	CATN	DeKalb Medical Center	Kelly Nadeau	404-501-5651
12/TBA	TNCC	DeKalb Medical Center	Roz Jackson	404-501-1178

Last updated 11/2004. Write to Kelly Nadeau at knadeau@dkmc.org to include additional courses in the newsletter.

**National Trauma Awareness Month**  
May 1-31, 2005,  
Visit:  
[www.amtrauma.org](http://www.amtrauma.org)  
for materials.

## GEORGIA'S TRAUMA CENTERS BY EMS REGION

### Region 1:

Floyd Medical Center, Level 2  
Hamilton Medical Center, Level 2

### Region 2: None

### Region 3:

Atlanta Medical Center, Level 2  
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Level 2 Pediatric  
Egleston Campus  
Scottish Rite Campus  
DeKalb Medical Center, Level 3  
Grady Memorial Hospital, Level 1  
Gwinnett Medical Center, Level 2  
N. Fulton Regional Hospital, Level 2

### Region 4: None

### Region 5:

Medical Center of Central Georgia, Level 1

### Region 6:

Medical College of Georgia, Level 1

### Region 7:

The Medical Center—Columbus, Level 2

### Region 8:

John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital, Level 2

### Region 9:

Memorial Health University Medical Center, Level 1

### Region 10:

Morgan Memorial Hospital, Level 4



North Fulton Regional Hospital  
Level 2 Trauma Center

# GEORGIA TRAUMA REGISTRY

## FLASH REPORT \*

Data element	4rd Quarter Comparison October, November, December		Year to Date Comparison January through December	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
Total records	2485	2606	9943	10557
Gender			—	—
Male	1706 68.65%	1788 68.61%	6767 68.06%	7182 68.03%
Female	779 31.35%	814 31.35%	3173 31.91%	3371 31.93%
Type of Injury	—	—	—	—
Blunt	2147 86.40%	2271 87.15%	8538 85.87%	9140 86.58%
Penetrating	324 13.04%	317 12.16%	1351 13.59%	1366 12.94%
Burn	14 0.56%	11 0.42%	52 0.52%	30 0.28%
Mechanism of Injury	Number of patients. Standard options with highest volume are reported below.			
ATV	38	57	203	257
MVC	1052	1053	3817	4129
MCC	96	114	454	561
GSW	204	214	833	846
SW	66	83	283	320
Fall	521	595	2043	2243
Pedestrian	139	142	559	536
Assault	99	103	419	440
Mode of Arrival	Number of patients	—	—	—
Ambulance	1770 71.23%	1872 71.83%	7159 72.00%	7569 71.70%
Helicopter	421 16.94%	503 19.30%	1595 16.04%	1955 18.50%
Walkin,Police,PV,Other	223 8.97%	206 7.90%	908 9.13%	919 8.70%
ED Disposition	Number of patients	—	—	—
ED DOA & Death	76	78	298	332
Home	44	63	215	268
Floor	967	950	3831	3861
OR	521	534	2125	2254
ICU	782	874	3077	3445
Transfer	65	86	255	310
ISS 1-4	616 24.79%	604 23.18%	2492 25.06%	2565 24.30%
ISS 5-9	709 28.53%	763 29.28%	2855 28.71%	3041 28.81%
ISS 10-15	375 15.09%	387 14.85%	1492 15.01%	1518 14.38%
ISS 16-24	407 16.38%	452 17.34%	1580 15.89%	1794 16.99%
ISS>=25	325 13.08%	313 12.01%	1279 12.86%	1361 12.89%
Not Done	53 2.13%	87 3.34%	245 2.46%	278 2.63%
Average ISS (auto calculated)	12.60	12.58	12.38	12.54

*15:15 Designated  
Trauma Centers  
reported data in  
2004*



Georgia Department  
of Human Resources  
Division of Public  
Health

Office of Emergency  
Medical Services/Trauma  
2600 Skyland Drive  
Lower Level Atlanta,  
Georgia 30319

Phone: 404-679-0547

Fax: 404-679-0526

*Pursuing  
Excellence in EMS*

To contribute to the  
OEMS/Trauma newsletter,  
please contact Marie  
Probst at  
mprobst@gdph.state.ga.us  
or (404) 679-0524.

## GEORGIA TRAUMA REGISTRY FLASH REPORT \*CONTINUED

	4rd Quarter Comparison October, November, December		Year to Date Comparison January through December	
Data element	2003	2004	2003	2004
Hospital Disposition	Number of patients. Standard options with highest volume are reported below.			
Home	1740	1835	7199	7549
Rehab	261	241	964	1031
Death, DOA	223	230	776	849
All Transfer	167	171	625	635
Nursing Home	50	72	192	266
Avg. ED LOS—Hours (Direct Admits omitted)	4.6	5.3	5.0	5.0
Avg. ICU Days	3.87	3.45	3.68	3.62
Avg. Hospital Days	7.65	7.15	7.48	7.18

\* Data is subject to change with out notice upon the importation of subsequent downloads.

Data collection for 2004 ends June 10, 2005. Data in this presentation is not provided for research purposes or to be reprinted.

Data classified as Not Available or Not Recorded is not reported in this flash report.

## THE OFFICE OF EMS/TRAUMA MISSION, VISION & VALUES STATEMENT

### Mission:

To encourage, foster, and promote the continued development of an optimal system of emergency medical and trauma care, which provides the best possible patient outcome.

### Vision:

By promoting excellence, providing uniform state-wide regulation, and promoting healthy communities, we seek to be valued by those we serve. An important by product of regulation is value-added information for emergency

preparedness, public health, EMS research, and strategic governance. By managing knowledge, EMS can improve public health in Georgia.



### Values:

**Excellence:** We promote excellence, achieve and maintain quality results.

**Integrity:** We are committed to honest, fairness, and trustworthiness in the best interests of the citizens of Georgia and those that represent state government.

### **Teamwork:**

We encourage active collaboration to solve problems, avoid conflict, make decisions, and achieve common goals.